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THEY MADE A MOVIE ON MAKING BABIES? {page 14}

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Wednesday, August 8, 2012

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

‘Grief and love’ today, football tomorrow

Current and former Eagles, NFL leaders came to mourn with Reid family Garrett remembered as great friend His father ‘probably will’ return for Thursday’s preseason opener {page 05}

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No MOVEment toward parole for Philly cop killers 34 years ago

Members of 'MOVE 9' convicted in killing of Philadelphia police Officer James Ramp 34 years ago today still plead innocence Eligible for parole since 2008, they were denied again in May

The 1985 MOVE bombing will forever be seared into Philadelphia's collective memory as the day police bombed a neighborhood, killing 11 and decimating dozens of homes in West Philadelphia. But seven years earlier, on Aug. 8, 1978, Philadelphia police first laid siege to the radical black group at its Powelton Village headquarters.

Amid the tear gas and hail of bullets, city Officer James Ramp was killed. Nine MOVE members were eventually convicted of third-degree murder and conspiracy and sentenced to between 30 and 100 years. The eight remaining (one died in prison in 1998) are still behind bars 34 years later after being denied parole in May.

The most recent reasons for the denials range from "failure to accept responsibility for the offenses committed" to "failure to demonstrate motivation for success," but family members claim they are political prisoners and continue to push for their release.

"Guilt or innocence is not an issue with parole," said Ramona Africa, a survivor of the bombing. "They're making an issue that my family repeatedly tells them that they're innocent because they are. ...They just make up these reasons, so-called justification, to deny MOVE people parole."

Leo Dunn, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, responded by saying, "... the board weighs all the information and does a face-to-face interview with every offender before making a case-specific decision."

But the rationale does not hold much water with Linn Washington, a longtime journalist with the Philadelphia Tribune and Temple University professor, who covered both the 1978 incident and the bombing. He described the police investigation as "shoddy" and "incomplete."

"Clearly, these individuals have served their minimum term, which makes them eligible for parole. To demand that they accept responsibility for it really is extralegal and should not be a parole consideration," he said. "Other people who have done far more in terms of criminality have been paroled and they have abided by the terms of their parole."

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Ramona Africa, seen here in 2011, said "guilt or innocence is not an issue with parole," arguing that the state parole board rules against MOVE members who still declare their innocence.

Quoted

"They were a radical terrorist group and there's got to be some type of guidelines ... the guidelines are 30 to 100. I'd be happy if they did the full 100 (years)."

JOHN MCNESBY, FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE PRESIDENT

Timeline

- **Aug. 8, 1978:** Confrontation between Philadelphia police and MOVE members results in the death of Officer James Ramp.
- **1980:** Chuck, Debbie, Delbert, Eddie, Janet, Janine, Merle, Mike and Phil Africa were sentenced for Ramp's murder.
- **1985:** Police dropped a bomb on 6200 Osage Avenue in West Philadelphia, killing 11 people and destroying 61 homes.
- **2008:** First time the eight surviving MOVE inmates were eligible for parole.

SOLOMON D. LEACH
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Legends of MOVE 9

▶ The Osage Ave. address

- Some observers have concluded that Ramp was killed by friendly fire based on testimony that the bullet struck him from a "downward trajectory" and testimony that MOVE members were stationed in the basement.
- Another issue that raises questions about the investigation's credibility was the demolition of the MOVE Powelton Village headquarters hours after the final arrest. MOVE members insist it was an intentional act to destroy a crime scene.
- Judge Edwin Malmed, who presided over the 1981 trial, has been criticized for his handling of the case. Shortly after sentencing, journalist Mumia Abu Jamal called into a radio show and asked Malmed who killed James Ramp, to which Malmed replied, "I haven't the faintest idea," according to reports.

Quoted

"These parole officials have been keeping our family in prison under the guise of justice like we['re] guilty of murder and they['re] the ones that should be guilty."

DELBERT AFRICA, IN A RECORDING RELEASED LAST WEEK ON PRISONRADIO.ORG

In the news

Sunburn allegedly leads to stabbing

A Bethlehem woman allegedly stabbed her boyfriend with a steak knife Monday night after he slapped her sunburned butt while she was doing dishes. Police said Tiffany Sherry, 24, became enraged and turned on the man, ordering her two children out of the room and allegedly stabbing him in the shoulder. Sherry then allegedly screamed and stabbed him a second time in the back. METRO/AW

In the news

Home invasion

A 10-year-old boy has been charged in a violent home invasion after being turned in by his parents. The alleged incident occurred Monday around 3:30 p.m. on the 1200 block of East Luzerne Street in the city's Juniata section. Authorities said a 51-year-old woman reported being beaten with household items, including a plunger. METRO

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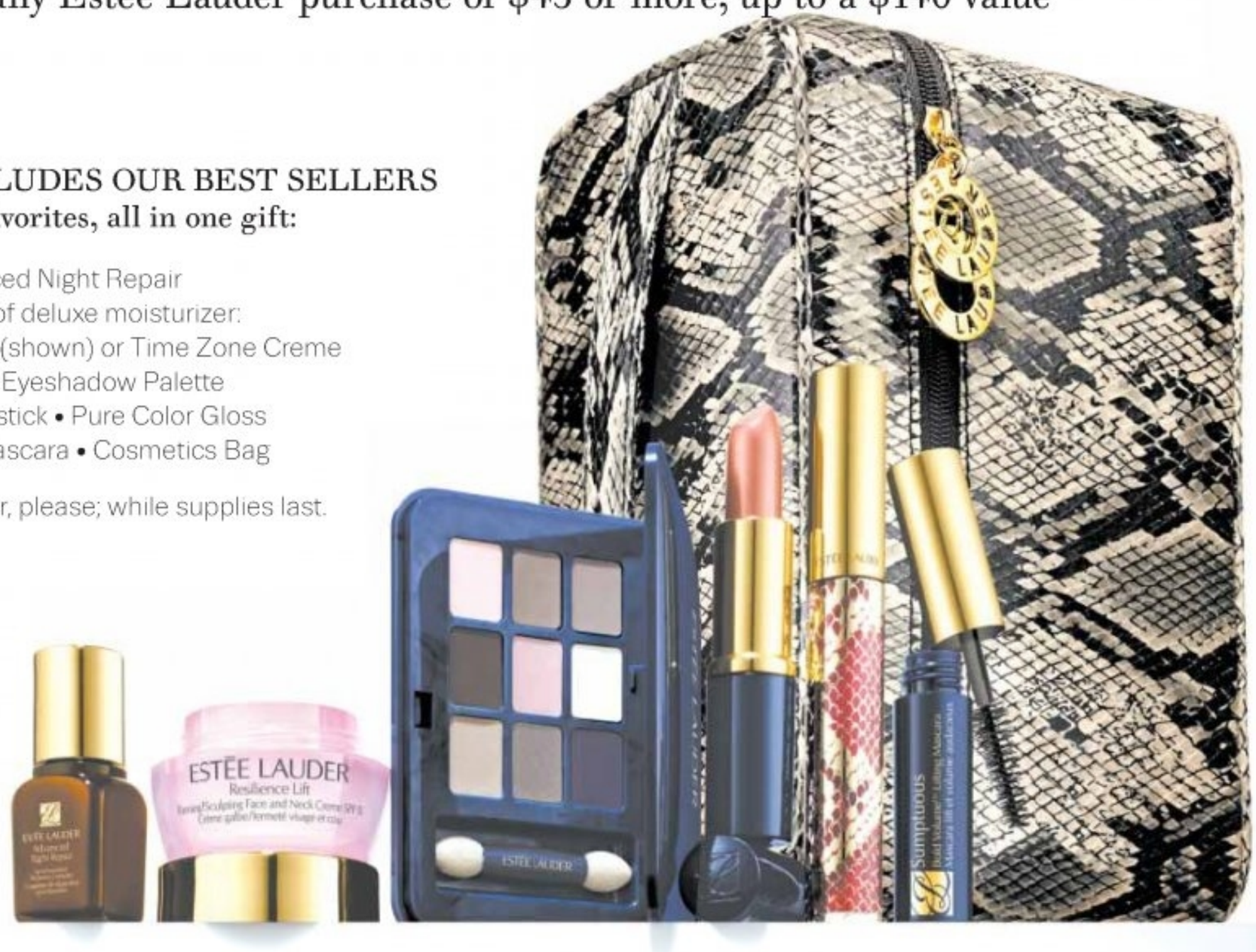

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Parking

Contest a ticket? Let's check out the camera

Officials with the Philadelphia Parking Authority testified yesterday in Harrisburg that city parking enforcement officers will start taking photographs of motorists' license plates early next year.

According to PPA spokesman Marty O'Rourke, the new practice will begin in about six months. Each parking enforcement officer will carry a camera. Photographs will not be taken in every instance, but the agency has not decided which violations will require photos.

"They're not going to photograph every violation, but just some of the more egregious violations like handicap parking," O'Rourke said.

The state-run agency will institute the tactic in response to questions from lawmakers who say some of their constituents have complained of tickets despite not being in the city.

"This will be better evidence to basically show the license plate of the vehicle that was ticketed," O'Rourke added, although he was not sure what type of device would be used to take the photos.

Most of the authority's revenue goes to city government, while a portion also funds the School District of Philadelphia.

SOLOMON D. LEACH

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Opinion

ROB WONDERLING
PRESIDENT AND CEO, GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

RETHINKING THE WAY CITY EDUCATES

The appointment of William Hite Jr. as Philadelphia School District superintendent marks an exciting turning point in our city's history. The business community stands ready to continue its work in partnership with Gov. Corbett, Mayor Nutter, the School Reform Commission (SRC), Superintendent Hite and our broader community to ensure that there is a bright future for every child in Philadelphia.

Recognizing that our region depends upon high-quality schools that prepare every student for success in the workplace or college, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce has made a significant commitment over the last several years to the education and employment prospects of our youth.

Most notably, working with our partners, we have established the Read to Me Early Literacy Program for kindergarten and pre-K students, and a summer internship program for high school kids in Philadelphia and Chester. Read to Me has helped more than 6,000 district students with book collections, teacher trainings, parent/caregiver workshops, and classroom visits. The WorkReady intern program, begun in 2007, has provided 6,712 students with paid, private-sector positions, exposing them to a variety of career opportunities.

Quoted

"A continued flat economic forecast for the private sector, combined with increasingly scarce public resources, requires a new way of thinking."

To ensure student achievement and fiscal stability in Philadelphia schools, the overall governance and education delivery system must change. We must truly empower our principals and teachers, and we must assure that the maximum amount of public and private dollars go directly to the classrooms.

That change started with the SRC Superintendent Search Committee, on which I was honored to serve as one of several citizen representatives. I saw a process that was both thorough and inclusive.

During the search, committee members reviewed more than 100 candidates and spent countless nights and weekends in meetings to ensure that all who wanted to come to Philadelphia to chart a new course for our school children would have an opportunity to be heard.

*– **Rob Wonderling** is the president and CEO of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce. His column runs the second Wednesday of every month.*

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

Eagles, NFL support Reid on emotional day

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Andy Reid was comforting others on the day he buried his eldest son, Garrett.

They filtered in from all over the country, stopping by to pay their respects to Eagles coach Andy Reid, a man often misunderstood in Philadelphia. On this day, however, his football family was there and nothing else mattered.

"I've always said he was the son I never had ... I have four daughters," said Browns president Mike Holmgren, who gave Reid his first job, as a graduate assistant at BYU. "Andy prides himself on being a rock and all of us in this business, we have to be like that a little bit, but when it comes to something as personal as this, sometimes it's just his humanness and who he is comes out, and that's okay."

The Reid family said goodbye to Garrett, Andy's eldest child, yesterday in a 90-minute service held at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Broomall. They chose the venue over Reid's regular church, in Center City, due to the expected turnout. Nine hundred mourners filled the church.

Quoted

"Andy wrapped me up in a big bear hug and told me everything was going to be alright."

HARBAUGH

The entire Eagles roster attended, along with NFL dignitaries like Patriots coach Bill Belichick and commissioner Roger Goodell. They joined former Reid coaches and players, like Donovan McNabb — and an 80-year-old woman claiming to be a season-ticket holder since 1960, who somehow stumbled past security to pay her respects. Yet it was Reid himself doing the comforting.

"Andy wrapped me up in a big bear hug and told me everything was going to be alright," said Ravens coach John Harbaugh, who once served on Reid's staff.

Harbaugh said the highlight of the service was a rendition of Garrett's favorite song by his sister Crosby. Andy's brother-in-law, Bart Winters, delivered the eulogy. It painted a vivid portrait of Garrett and his zest for life, according to attendees.

Owner Jeff Lurie couldn't hold back tears as he exited.

"It was filled with grief and love, and that's the nature of sadness," Lurie said. "As it was said, there's not a lot of grief if you don't love and there's not a lot of love if you don't grieve, they go hand in hand. That's kind of the theme."

MIKE GREGER
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Owner: Reid to use coaching as 'therapy'

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Lurie

Jeffrey Lurie stated again that he expects Andy Reid to coach Thursday's preseason opener at the Linc.

The owner cited previous coaches, such as Tony Dungy and Joe Philbin, who returned to the sideline almost immediately after dealing with tragic losses in their families. Lurie seemed to think, from his recent talks with Reid, that he would do the same.

"He's so comfortable coaching. That's what he does, he's a football coach and I think it will be therapy for him," Lurie said. "On behalf of all of us, he can take off as much time as he wants, but that's not what he wants. He wants to get right back in there."

When asked specifically about Reid being at Thursday's game, Lurie said, "I think so. We'll see, but all indications are that he probably will be."

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Information

Obama: Americans should search souls about gun violence

President Barack Obama said yesterday that mass killings like the shooting rampage at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin were occurring with "too much regularity" and should prompt soul-searching by all Americans, but he stopped short of calling for new gun-control laws.

"All of us are heartbroken by what happened," Obama told reporters at the White House a day after a gunman opened fire on Sikh worshippers preparing for religious services, killing six before he was shot dead by a police officer.

But when asked whether he would push for further gun-control measures in the wake of the shootings, Obama said only that he wanted to bring together leaders at all levels of American society to examine ways to curb gun violence.

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A memorial in Aurora

Politically risky

Talk of reining in America's gun culture is considered politically risky for Obama, who is locked in a tight race against Republican challenger Mitt Romney for the November election.

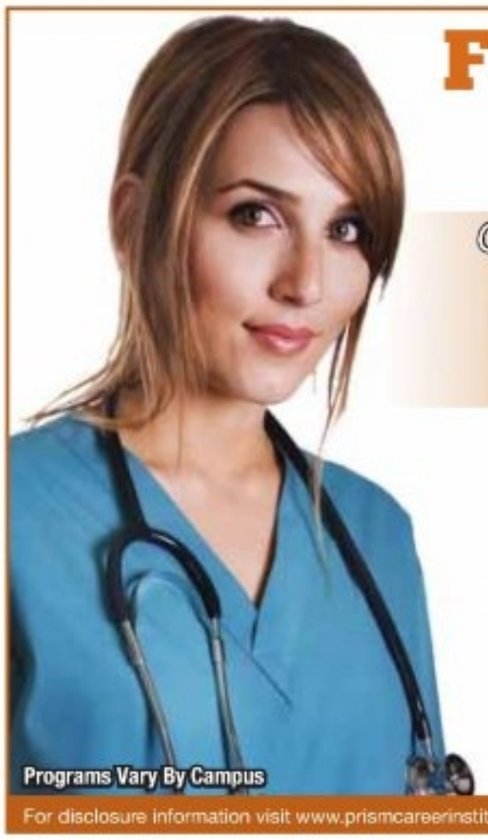
That echoed his pledge last month in a speech in New Orleans to work broadly to "arrive at a consensus" on the contentious issue after the deadly Aurora, Colo., shooting spree highlighted the problem in an election year.

But like his earlier comments, Obama offered no timetable or specifics for such discussions and did not call outright for tighter gun control laws. **REUTERS**

Loughner pleads guilty when found competent

TUCSON, ARIZONA. Jared Lee Loughner pleaded guilty to killing six people and trying to assassinate U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords last year after being found mentally competent by a federal judge in Tucson, Ariz.

The former community college student previously pleaded not guilty to charges of murder and attempted murder related to the Jan. 8, 2011, shooting. **BLOOMBERG**



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US nuns meet to decide how to respond to Vatican rebuke

ST. LOUIS. The largest group for American nuns begins a four-day meeting in St. Louis yesterday to consider a response to the Vatican's decision to assign effective control of the group to a trio of bishops because the nuns had strayed from church doctrine.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious is conducting its first national assembly since church leadership accused the group of focusing too much on social-justice issues such as poverty and not enough opposing abortion, gay marriage and euthanasia. **REUTERS**

Standard Chartered questions motive of US regulator's Iran claims

A New York bank regulator's broadside against Standard Chartered bank, for allegedly hiding $250 billion in transactions tied to Iran left investors and the bank questioning the motive for the ambush, which wiped $17 billion off its value.

London-based Standard Chartered hit back at the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) threat to tear up its state banking license yesterday, dismissing the charge that it was a "rogue institution" that "schemed" with the Iranian government as a distortion of the facts.

Bank insiders were as shocked as investors by the ferocity of the DFS accusations

CRIS BOURONCLE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sands

over its involvement with Iran, which is subject to U.S. sanctions over its nuclear program.

Chief Executive Peter Sands scrambled back from his vacation as the bank held hastily convened conference calls to plan its defense and try to limit the damage caused to its reputation.

$250B

New York's top bank regulator threatened to strip the lender of its state banking license, saying it hid $250 billion in transactions tied to Iran, in violation of U.S. law.

The U.S. agency said Standard Chartered hid 60,000 secret transactions with Iranian companies, to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in fees over nearly ten years.

One institutional investor, who asked not to be named, said: "Some of the language used is very disturbing. Of course, it could be that the Americans are exaggerating, but somehow that doesn't seem to be the case here," the investor said.

A fund manager for a major institutional shareholder in the bank, however, commented that "sensational language" used by the regulator "diminished" its allegations.

The bank, which has been in talks with U.S. authorities since early 2010 over the matter, had exposed the U.S. banking system to terrorists, drug traffickers and corrupt states, the DFS said. **REUTERS**

Newest iPhone will not include YouTube app

SAN FRANCISCO. Apple Inc.'s new version of its iPhone and iPad software will not include a pre-loaded app for Google's popular video website, YouTube, Apple said yesterday.

It was the latest sign of the growing rivalry between the technology companies that once were closely aligned but now are vying for supremacy in the fast-growing mobile computing market.

Earlier this year, Apple said it would dump Google's mapping software from its mobile devices.

"Apple and Google are the mobile operating systems for the future and this is where the battleground is going to lie," said Needham & Co analyst Kerry Rice. **REUTERS**

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FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Doylestown, PA – Fred Beans, CEO and Founder of the Fred Beans Automotive Group located in Doylestown PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, August 11th at 9:00 AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**. This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 7 Fred Beans Doylestown locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory**.

In addition to this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, GMC, and Saab vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

In addition to the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies for this sale.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**, prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, ***"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interests."***

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that is right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of August 10th after close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle.

Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has $10,000,000 in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with "less than perfect" credit history can have their credit approved and drive a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV home by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession, or if a customer is a first time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

This special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale will be held at all 7 Fred Beans Doylestown locations this Saturday, August 11th, at 9:00AM.

Pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as $999. Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM for the start of inspection. Incredible sale prices, starting as low as **$999**, will be posted no later than 8:00AM. All vehicles will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships is expecting a high volume of customers for this sale, so be sure to reserve your spot early.

Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So, if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van or sport utility vehicle, do not miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

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*At least four vehicles on Fred Beans' lots will be sold for as low as $999 on August 11th, 2012. All offers to qualified buyers. Cannot be combined with other offers.

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How the weather influences life's big spending decisions

GABRIEL BOUYS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ A savvy seller can profit on shoppers' projection bias. That's why car dealers do all they can to ink a contract while you're pumped up over a test drive.

For the sake of argument, let's say you have a fleet of vehicles and want to clear some space in your five-car garage. What should you sell first? The vehicle with the highest mileage or the lowest? The gas-guzzler or the hybrid? Last year's model or the classic?

How about the one that fits the weather pattern?

It probably doesn't come as a surprise that convertibles sell better in the spring than in the dead of winter, or that small-engine cars move faster when gas prices spike. Now there's academic research to support and even quantify the effects weather has on the sales process.

Convertibles don't just sell better in warm weather. Specifically, a 20-degree increase in temperature spurs an 8.5 percent increase in convertible sales, according to Jorge Silva-Risso, an associate professor of marketing at the University of California's Riverside's School of Business Administration.

Silva-Risso and his co-authors find that the same 20-degree temperature spike causes a 2.1 percent drop in the number of black vehicles sold, while a shift from cloudy to clear weather reduces black vehicle sales by 5.6 percent.

Similarly, a 6 percent increase in sales of four-wheel-drive vehicles follows a 10-inch snowfall.

Finally, if you invested in an expensive swimming pool, wait until the summer to sell: A home with a swimming pool will sell for $1,600 more, on average, in the summer versus the winter.

The research in the UC Riverside study is predicated on a process known as "projection bias," which provides opportunities for sellers and serves as a caution to buyers.

"Projection bias refers to the tendency to overpredict the degree to which future tastes will resemble current tastes," says a university explanation of the research. "For example, the popular adage 'Never shop on an empty stomach' is a caution against projection bias: Consumers are likely to overpredict the degree their future selves will appreciate the purchases that their current selves crave."

MAINSTREET.COM

Looking at sales data

The vehicle research looked at data from more than 40 million new and used vehicle sales, about 20% of the total from 2001 through 2008. The housing data included four million sales of single-family homes from 1998 through 2008.

The authors cite the value of cooling-off periods for certain purchases. Some laws, for instance, give buyers time to change their minds after high-pressure door-to-door sales. MAINSTREET.COM

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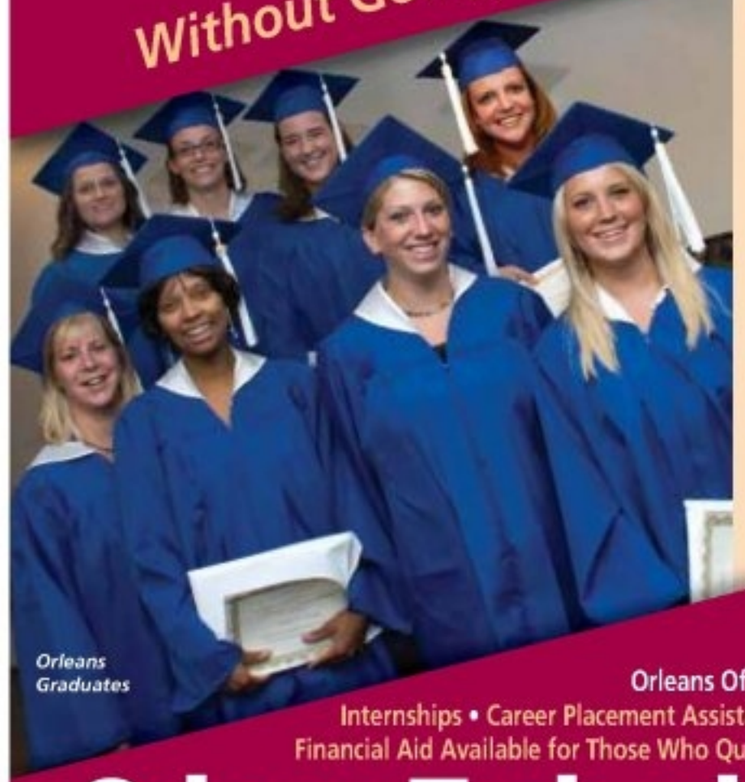

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

ALL PHOTOS FROM GETTY IMAGES

Sorry, London: Posh doesn't come cheap

Beckham

Forget the Opening Ceremony — the Spice Girls are reuniting for a performance at the Olympics' closing-night ceremony.

Unfortunately though, things don't always go smoothly when five former pop stars try to squeeze back into their platform sneakers. It seems **Victoria Beckham** — or, as we never stopped calling her, **Posh Spice** — has some wardrobe requirements.

"They are paying at least $15,000 for Victoria Beckham's hair, makeup and stylist. In comparison, the other Spice Girls cost one-fourth of what Victoria is costing," a source tells Hollyscoop of the Olympic preparations. "All of the diva stories about Victoria are true. This is p— ing off the other Spice Girls. They don't understand why she is getting special treatment."

Allow us to explain, ladies: It's because her name is Victoria Beckham, and she has closets bigger than some competing countries.

Lochte crushing on Blake Lively

In other Olympic news that has nothing to do with the Olympics, **Ryan Lochte** has admitted to having a crush on actress **Blake Lively**, telling CNN's Piers Morgan that "she is gorgeous."

Lively

As for the pick-up line, he tells Morgan he has one ready: "I would be like, 'Hi. You want to go to an island with me?'"

Yeah, Ryan buddy, maybe you should just stick to taking off your shirt.

The magic's in the makeup

Stefani

Gwen Stefani has always rocked a little **June Cleaver** along with her punky hair. Here is why your boyfriend/husband/cat would totally leave you for her tomorrow:

"I've always been a girl who loves to dress up," she tells Harper's Bazaar in the new issue. "I already put my makeup on twice today: I put it on to take my kid to school, and then I went home, washed my face and put it on again. I like to make my husband like me more, and he likes it when I'm wearing makeup."

Nobody did it better

▶ Hamlisch

America lost one of its greatest contemporary composers earlier this week when **Marvin Hamlisch** died. Hamlisch was best known for composing the score of the musical "A Chorus Line" and for co-writing "Nobody Does It Better," the theme song from the James Bond film "The Spy Who Loved Me," which Carly Simon turned into a top 10 hit. Hamlisch's work stretched into all disciplines of entertainment, and he is one of only 11 people to complete what is known as an EGOT, meaning he won awards from the Emmys, Grammys, Oscars and Tonys.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@NathanFillion
How's your handshake? You sure? Is it too hard? Do you pinch? People think they have it right, but don't. Seriously-check.

@Joan_Rivers
Ryan Lochte admits that he urinated in the water at the Olympics. Apparently he saw a sign that said "warm-up pool", so he did.

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Model athletes

We couldn't help but notice the tall blonde on Michael Phelps' gigantic arm at a party in London on Monday night. Not that he's the only pro athlete to step out with a model:

1. Meet model **Megan Rossee**, **Michael Phelps**' girlfriend of five months and a former college soccer player.

2. Sports Illustrated cover girl **Brooklyn Decker** is married to tennis pro **Andy Roddick**.

3. Tyra Banks dated former NBA star **Chris Webber** in 2002.

4. Gisele Bundchen and New England Patriots quarterback **Tom Brady** are reportedly expecting baby No. 2.

5. Tiger Woods was, once upon a time, married to Swedish model **Elin Nordegren**.

6. Victoria's Secret A-lister **Adriana Lima** is expecting her second child with Serbian professional basketball player **Marco Jaric.**

1: TIM WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES
2: JAY WEST/WIREIMAGE
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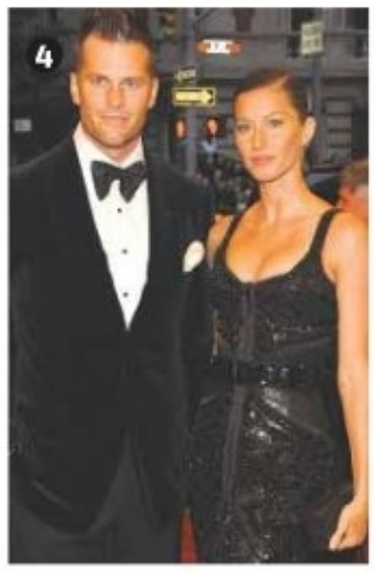

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Hoping to have the fastest fingers in US

Last year's fastest texter in the country will get a run for his money Kent Augustine has been practicing for years

Kent Augustine may seem like your everyday, ordinary teenager. Originally from Queens, he is the senior class president at his high school, runs track and field events and enjoys amateur photography. At the age of 16, he also happens to be a finalist in the sixth annual National Texting Competition.

Texting since he was 13, Augustine first learned about the competition by watching a commercial on MTV.

"I stumbled upon this game about three years ago. Back then, they had it on MTV where during a commercial break, they'd have a quote on the screen where you'd text it to them, and that's how you'd get in, but I'd never really win," says Augustine.

The competition, which has been going on since 2007, is sponsored by LG. The company sent him the LG Optimus smartphone. Finalists get the same equipment so they can practice their techniques.

Kent Augustine will compete in the sixth annual National Texting Competition.

Although he has the iPhone 4, Augustine admits that he is a faster texter on the LG due to its keyboard.

Augustine practices every night for about 30 minutes and sends about 100 text messages a day. His biggest competition is the returning champion, 17-year-old Austin Wierschke from Rhinelander, Wis.

Augustine's parents have taken his phone away as a punishment in the past. But if he wins this competition, it could mean more than $50,000 — and an end to complaints from his folks about overusing his phone.

SALEM GEBREZGI
letters@metro.us

Text test

We had Augustine send us a text of our choosing as we timed him.

In 20.1 seconds, we received a typo-free excerpt from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." ("Men at some time are masters of their fates: The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.")

TV watch list

'Here Comes Honey Boo Boo'

REALITY. "Toddlers & Tiaras" pageant queen Alana, aka Honey Boo Boo, shows off her self-described "redneck" family in this spinoff that visits the 6-year-old's roadkill-cooking clan. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., TLC**

'Go On'

COMEDY. In NBC's new Matthew Perry-led sitcom, the former "Friend" gets a new kind of support group — a motley crew of grievers who help Perry's recently widowed sports-radio host come to terms with his loss. **Preview, 11:05 p.m., NBC** AMBER RAY

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For 'Super Troopers,' adulthood isn't easy

The Broken Lizard guys' latest deals with fertility issues But don't worry — 'Babymakers' comes complete with heists, gangsters and gags

GETTY IMAGES

Still pretty funny meow: Jay Chandrasekhar and Kevin Heffernan star in "The Babymakers."

At first, "The Babymakers" seems like a strange offering from the Broken Lizard comedy crew. The story of Audrey (Olivia Munn) and Tommy (Paul Schneider) — a perfectly happy couple who begin to unravel when trying to get pregnant — the film dabbles in the romantic comedy tropes that "Super Troopers" and "Beerfest" were generally too drunk or too stoned to earnestly bother with.

"Well, we're certainly going through that in our lives — we're getting married, trying to have kids," says Broken Lizard member and "Babymakers" director Jay Chandrasekhar. "It really hits on some of the issues we're all going through, but it still had the heist."

The heist, it quickly turns out, is much more important to the film than babies. After a fertility doctor informs Tommy that he's the problem, he recruits his friends to rob a sperm bank that houses a vile of his very healthy college-era sperm donation. As with most Broken Lizard films, Kevin Heffernan earns the bulk of the laughs by getting himself in sticky situations (this time, unfortunately, very literally). "You bring in the really good actors to do the good stuff, like Paul Schneider," says Heffernan. "Personally, I'd rather be the guy hanging out the window than having a serious discussion with my wife — for me, that's harder."

Not that Heffernan gets all the good scenes. Chandrasekhar plays an incompetent Indian mobster hired to assist with the robbery, a role he admits he was the natural frontrunner for. "Acting and directing — it's the perfect way to ruin two perfectly good jobs," says Chandrasekhar. "But the best way to get a good part is to audition for the part and give yourself the role."

MONICA WEYMOUTH
monica.weymouth@metro.us

Casting calls

It's a credit to Paul Schneider's messy charm that it's even plausible that the eerily beautiful Olivia Munn would talk to any of the guys in "The Babymakers." But she wasn't hired just for her looks.

"She has such a sense of timing and a funny, dark sense of humor, so she fits right in," says Chandrasekhar.

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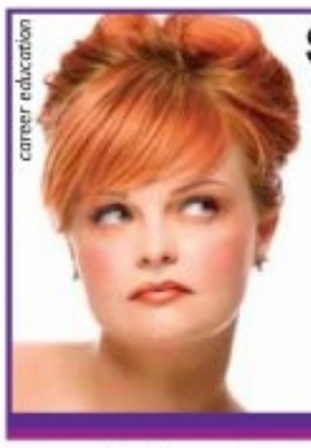

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Zoe Kazan's 'Sparks'

The multitalented actress discusses writing and producing her first screenplay, 'Ruby Sparks,' and the complicated nature of falling in love

With big blue eyes, a graceful little smile and the slightest forward hunch of her shoulders, Zoe Kazan doesn't look as mighty as the sum of her creative forces. The 28-year-old granddaughter of legendary filmmaker Elia Kazan is not only a celebrated actress, she's also a playwright, screenwriter and executive producer. But on the day that we meet her, she girlishly curls up in a chair at the Crosby Street Hotel, tucking her feet under herself as if preparing to read a good book. We discuss the film that she wrote, produced and starred in, "Ruby Sparks."

"I guess I'm a formalist," she says. "I like things to take advantage of their medium." Having written plays in the past, Kazan is describing her choice to make this particular story into a film. And upon learning of the subject matter, one can understand why — an author plagued by writer's block finally stumbles upon inspiration when he dreams of his perfect woman. After writing pages and pages about his muse, Ruby Sparks suddenly appears in his apartment and he continues to be able to control her with his typewriter.

MERRICK MORTON

▶ Zoe Kazan is the brains and beauty behind "Ruby Sparks," which is in theaters now.

"When he starts to change Ruby, it's when he feels that she might leave him," Kazan says. "It's out of a feeling of helplessness and a desire to hold onto the loved object. I also think it's very hard to love the actual person. … In previous relationships, I've felt like, 'Oh you don't love me; you love this idea of Zoe that's over here somewhere, and there are bits of me in there. But it's a whole me — [it's] as if you chopped off my arm and called that Zoe.'"

Having been with her partner and co-star Paul Dano for several years, it seems Ms. Kazan must know a thing or two about keeping a relationship going. She certainly displays an insightful perspective on how it gets started.

"We all start with an idea of love; you feel attracted to someone — they smell right to you, they feel right to you and you immediately project a lifetime of romantic ideals and thoughts and every movie you've ever seen and every rock star you've ever loved," she says. "All that sh— comes right at that person, and then I think it takes a long time to pull away those layers and see the actual person. And then once you do, that's where love really starts."

Quoted

"We all start with an idea of love. … All that sh— comes right at that person, and then I think it takes a long time to pull away those layers and see the actual person. And then once you do, that's where love really starts."
KAZAN

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

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C218, Juan Guerrero,	household items	L137, Melissa Churchill,	household items
F534, Brenda Vazquez,	household items	L141, Milagros Reyes,	household items
H733, Zoila Lopez,	household items	S115, Emelia Robaina,	household items
I827, Erica Gil-Reyes,	household items	S127, Edgardo Rivera,	household items
I829, Jesse Ramos,	household items	S706, Emily Ruiz,	household items
L244, Anthony Jackson,	household items	S744, Aaron Garner,	household items

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Style picks

Vacation essentials

Whether you're jetting off to Miami or sunning at the Shore, here's what's coming with you:

1. A cute and roomy bag to hold your hat, Kindle, magazines, various sprays, potions, camera and more. **WILL Leather Goods Carry All, $95,** www.willleathergoods.com

2. Besides enhancing your tan, Clarins' new bronzer protects against pollution, free radicals and UV rays. **Clarins bronzing duo SPF 15, $34,** www.clarinsusa.com

3. Even more important than your smartphone. **L'Oreal Paris Sublime Sun sunscreen SPF 50+, $11, drugstores nationwide**

4. Malin + Goetz's new natural formula bug spray uses essential oils like rosemary, geranium and citronella to keep critters from messing with your tan. Also great for anyone with sensitive or irritated skin. **Malin + Goetz bug spray, $20, www.malinandgoetz.com**

5. Poppin' and protected. **Benefit Cosmetics Benetint lip balm SPF 15, $20, www.benefitcosmetics.com**

6. No time for that mani before your trip? This pack contains a nail color, 40 pre-soaked polish remover pads and a mini nail file. **Duality Cosmetics Nail Pak, $20, www.dualitycosmetics.com**

7. Bumble and bumble's best-selling Surf Spray now comes in a handy, travel-sized bottle. See ya next week, hair dryer. **Bumble and bumble Surf Spray, $15,** www.bumbleandbumble.com ● TINA CHADHA

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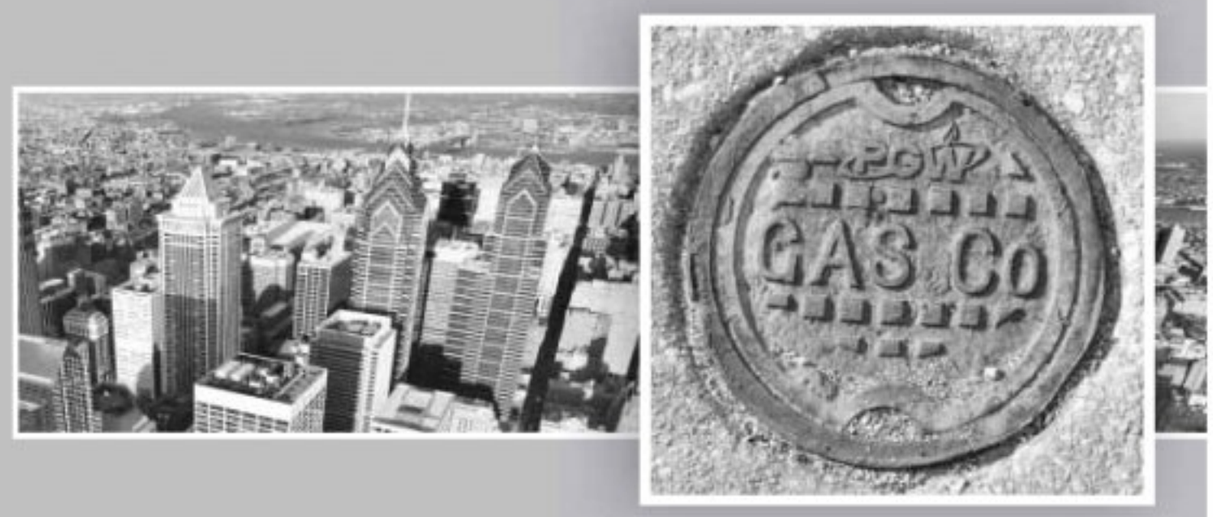

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2007 Infiniti FX-35
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2009 Nissan Maxima
Sunroof, Leather
$19,999

2008 Dodge Avenger
PW/PS/PL, Alloy Wheels, Remote Keyless Entry, Privacy Glass, CD, Cruise Control
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2011 Dodge Charger
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$22,995

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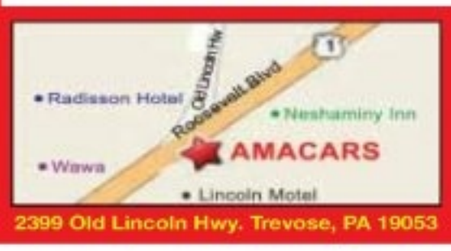

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Lolo Jones

ASICS-sponsored hurdler

▶ **Watch the "D" word.** "I don't diet. I do, however, eat very lean — lots of fish and chicken. I cut out the extras; [I'll make] a salad with no dressing. I eat a lot of protein."

▶ **Home stretch.** "I have a ton of yoga videos, which I enjoy. They relax me and are essential to my flexibility."

MEREDITH ENGEL
meredith.engel@metro.us

Jake Kaminski

Silver medal archer

▶ **Eat a good breakfast.** "I rely on good breakfasts because that's what I was taught when I was young from my mom. Eat healthy in the morning and you have energy to go throughout the day. When I'm competing, we shoot for eight hours in one day, and it's important to keep my blood sugar level on an even keel. I take Special K bars with me because they're easy to grab, they keep well and they taste great."

Christie Rampone

Captain, U.S. women's soccer team, gold medalist and FRS spokesperson

▶ **Begin a new routine slowly.** "Don't jump right in. The first couple weeks will be the hardest with soreness and being tired. Try your best to have a workout buddy, or join classes. Make a schedule for yourself with definitive times. Once you become consistent, make sure to change your workout routine to keep your body and mind fresh. You want to get results!"

Tim Morehouse

Silver medal fencer

▶ **Strengthen your core.** "One of the machines I use a lot is the Kinesis from Technogym. [It's] basically a cable machine. If my core is weak I will just, like, flop over. I do a lot of motions and different directions: holding the cable in my right arm and touching my left leg. I think replicating the motions that you do in sports — but with a cable attached to your arm or leg — really builds up strength."

Dominique Moceanu

Retired gold medal gymnast and the author of the memoir "Off Balance"

▶ **Cheaters win.** "Plan out a 'cheat day' once a week. Too many of us equate giving in to temptation as failure, and it's just not true. Allowing for a day to 'give in' helps us avoid binge eating."

▶ **Flex it out.** "The lying hamstring stretch is my favorite workout move. It starts lying face up with the legs straight. Bring your right leg up toward you while keeping it straight during the whole stretch."

Jordyn Wieber

Gold medal gymnast and P&G beauty ambassador

▶ **Drink up.** "Stay hydrated. Drinking water is so important."

Quoted

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Letters

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Coverage of Sikh temple killings found wanting

I'm very disappointed at some media coverage of the shooting at Wisconsin Sikh temple as an act of "mistaken identity." The implication that those cowardly murders of innocent lives were chiefly mistaking turban-wearing Sikhs for Muslims on the part of the perpetrator seems to me, as a humanist, utterly deplorable. Bin Laden, Jared Loughner, the suspect James Holmes and Anders Breivik — none of them committed the murders "mistakenly." They were rather premeditated and well-planned. To avert such terror in the future, the news media could help by more in-depth analysis of the topic, in contrast to superficial leveling such as the "mistaken identity."

JAHED AHMED, VIA E-MAIL

I've noticed a surprisingly low level of coverage concerning Sunday's attack on the Sikh temple in Wisconsin, and to date no letters on it appearing on this page. I sincerely hope this is because people are engaged in some serious contemplation about our society's gun fetish, and not simply because the victims were non-Caucasian and non-Christian, and thus not worth the time.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Utopia lyrics had the answer all along

I am appalled and greatly sadden over the latest shooting and massacre of innocent Sikhs in Wisconsin — and in their house of worship. Is no place sacred? My heartfelt prayers go out to the peaceful Sikh people and their families that have lost so much. As a nation, we can never be truely free if we continue hating those of different cultures. We are all brothers and sisters of the human race and were created by God to love one another. Remember this too: Hate is created in the home, and parents ought to teach their children to respect all people. Love is the answer.

FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA E-MAIL

Mets (fans just) can't catch (a break)

A recent article said a NYC cop who refused to leave a seat that was not his was banned from Citi Field. Meaning he can't "enjoy" a Mets game until 2013. What crime did the rest of Met fans commit to deserve the same punishment?

ROBERT LA ROSA, VIA E-MAIL

At least that means he's good at limbo?

With our current president running the country, the bar has been set so low that anyone that will do a better job than Obama.

Wake up, this guy will go down in history as being the least qualified and worst president this country has ever seen.

JOHN MURPHY, VIA E-MAIL

Romney might share trait with Tin Man

I would like to know what charities and or nonprofits Mr. Romney has supported for the past decade. This may point to where his heart is, as his head appears to be focused on his campaign. Does Mr. Romney give back?

ANDREA OWENS, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Do not deviate from or alter an ambitious objective if you feel it is well thought out and worthy of your efforts. With a good attitude, victory is much more plausible than you know.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** There is a strong chance that you'll get an opportunity to vindicate yourself to a person you unwittingly offended in the past. When you see the opening, make your move.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You're likely to be much better at managing the affairs of another than you'll be at handling your own. This is especially true if your problem is of a financial nature.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Certain people with whom you'll be involved could be extremely helpful in providing some beneficial information. It might even cause you to reverse one of your positions.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** A condition that has been adversely affecting your career and/or finances is about to take a turn that will allow you to finally make a very advantageous adjustment.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Knowledge and experience can be your best allies. If you are stymied by something, unlock a door to the past and search for a similar situation to guide you.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Sitting down with a good friend whom you trust would be an extremely beneficial thing to do. Valuable ideas could be garnered from a frank discussion.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Gossip you've heard concerning a good friend will be either verified or disproved through conversations with others. Fortunately, you'll know the truth when you hear it.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** While you're in the mood, reorganize your affairs in ways that will make it easier for you to overcome certain obstacles that have been problems for far too long.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** The secret to success is already interwoven within your philosophy of life — when you want the best for others and yourself, you'll come out ahead.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** By monitoring events, you should quickly learn that something you've long wanted to change could be facilitated through a third party. Do it.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** In a situation regarding which both you and your mate share the same hopes and desires, success could be probable. Pull together until you achieve exactly what you want.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Sheik's cartel
5 Future fries
9 Our, in Tours
14 Game played on horseback
15 Atlas abbr.
16 Sighed with delight
17 V __ __ victory
18 D'Artagnan prop
19 "Goodnight" girl
20 Bowling groups
22 Large vessel
24 Meat-stock jelly
26 Co. honcho
27 Private eye
30 Unyielding (hyph.)
35 Supply the banquet
36 Nota __
37 Severe hairdo
38 Turkish official
39 Assumption
42 __ de cologne
43 Red on the inside
45 Elec. or gas
46 Kudu cousin
48 Tex-Mex beans
50 End of a threat (2 wds.)
51 Hot time in Quebec
52 Unspoken
54 Roy G. Biv displays
58 Convention
62 Flavor
63 Donahue or Collins
65 Europe-Asia range
66 Make a sound
67 Fast-food order (2 wds.)
68 Geographic feature
69 Forms droplets
70 Bench or hassock
71 Latin I verb

Down
1 Libra's stone
2 Raise, as a question
3 Charles Lamb
4 Grift, e.g. (2 wds.)
5 Makes tea
6 Soft drink brand
7 "Where Eagles Dare" actress
8 Remnant
9 Put up boards
10 Rowboat part
11 Quaker pronoun
12 Gambler's town
13 Early garden?
21 Grab the throne
23 Farm sizes
25 British pharmacist
27 Wolf down
28 Snert's master
29 Video-game pioneer
31 Indigo plant
32 Tatum or Ryan
33 Speckled horses
34 Chopin piece
36 __ noire
40 Monarch or yardstick
41 Spine-tingling
44 Kicked out of a game
47 Salad green
49 Abalone eaters
50 Nocturnal wildcat
53 Pablo's girlfriend
54 Injure a toe
55 An hors d'oeuvre
56 Como __ usted?
57 Two-BR units
59 Some nest eggs
60 Enjoys a siesta
61 Winner's feeling
64 Ground breaker

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
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17				■	18				■	19				
20				21			■	22	23					
■	■	■	24				25	■	26			■	■	■
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35					■	36				■	37			
38			■	39	40					41	■	42		
43			44	■	45				■	46	47			
48				49				■	50					
■	■	■	51			■	52	53				■	■	■
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62					■	63	64			■	65			
66					■	67					68			
69					■	70					71			

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					3	7	5	
	9	8			7	3		6
1						2		5
7	2	5						

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

3			5		4	6	8	9
9		1					5	7
			9			2		
					6		1	
		8		9		5		
	3		1					
		4			5			
2	6					9		5
7	1	5	4		9			6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Tuesday's crossword

C	A	S	H	■	M	I	F	F	■	C	A	C	T	I
O	B	O	E	■	O	V	A	L	■	A	C	O	R	N
V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	O	■	T	I	L	E	D
E	S	A	■	O	L	E	S	■	C	A	D	D	Y	■
T	H	R	O	N	E	S	■	B	A	L	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	M	O	N	O	C	L	E	■
L	U	B	E	S	■	E	Y	I	N	G	■	U	N	D
E	R	A	S	■	M	A	N	L	Y	■	A	L	D	A
I	L	K	■	L	I	R	A	S	■	C	R	U	S	H
■	S	E	V	E	N	T	H	■	C	E	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	N	C	H	■	P	U	L	S	A	T	E
■	B	A	S	I	E	■	L	A	C	E	■	G	I	N
E	L	I	T	E	■	J	U	N	K	B	O	N	D	S
S	U	D	A	N	■	A	R	G	O	■	B	E	A	U
C	R	E	S	T	■	B	E	S	O	■	I	S	L	E

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.
You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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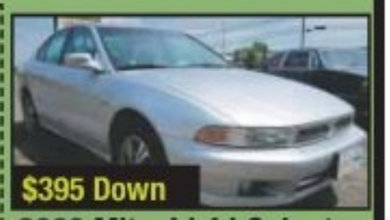
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Tune in

Three events to catch today:

- The men's decathlon begins today and American Ashton Eaton is the favorite. He set the world record in June at the U.S. Olympic trials. The first five events are today, including the 100m and long jump, two of Eaton's best events.
- The women's 200m final is today at 4 p.m. EST and it has a very similar feel to the 100m. Five of the eight runners are the same including 100m champ Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and the favorite, American Allyson Felix.
- Elimination rounds begin in men's basketball with the United States facing Australia at 5:15 p.m. EST. The U.S. looked shaky against Lithuania but rebounded nicely to beat Argentina. The Aussies feature NBA player and St. Mary's legend Patty Mills.

MARK OSBORNE

RYAN PIERSE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Misty May-Treanor will be fired up today at 4 p.m. (EST).

Day at the beach

May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings climb all the way back to medal round ◐ Facing Americans Ross, Kessy

If Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh-Jennings are going to win an unprecedented third straight gold medal in beach volleyball, they are going to have to defeat America.

Just hours after May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings defeated the favored Chinese pair of Xue Chen and Zhang Xi, they were joined in the gold medal final by the other American duo of April Ross and Jen Kessy.

Ross and Kessy battled the No. 1 seed and defending world champion Brazilians Juliana and Larissa at Horse Guards Parade in a cold, driving rain. The Americans spent each timeout with their feet in buckets of warm water to keep them from going numb.

May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings captured the nation's attention in 2004 when they won gold in Athens. They dominated the sport for the next four years and won again in Beijing.

But over the past four years, the duo went their separate ways as Walsh was married and had children in May 2009 and May 2010 and May-Treanor partnered with Nicole Branagh. In the interim, the Chinese and Brazilians dominated the sport.

Medal count

	G	S	B
1. CHINA	34	21	18
2. UNITED STATES	30	19	21
3. GREAT BRITAIN	22	13	13
4. RUSSIA	10	18	20
5. JAPAN	2	13	14
6. FRANCE	8	9	11
7. GERMANY	6	14	7
8. AUSTRALIA	4	12	9
9. SOUTH KOREA	12	5	6
10. ITALY	7	6	4

▶ Alistair Brownlee won triathlon gold

13-8

The score by which May-Treanor and Walsh-Jennings trailed in the first set at the first technical timeout.

A year before the London Olympics, the duo got back together for one last go at Olympic gold, and after yesterday's win, they will have that chance.

"We want to seal the deal that we're the best team that's ever happened," Walsh-Jennings told reporters after the match. "Misty has changed my life. I just love her. I want to win tomorrow for us."

Ross and Kessy, meanwhile, were making their Olympic debuts and as the No. 4 seed weren't necessarily expected to figure in the medals.

"I had a picture in my head at the beginning of the season of how I wanted us to play, and we're living that picture," Walsh-Jennings said.

MARK OSBORNE
mark.osborne@metro.us

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jimmy Rollins checks Michael Bourn at second during Monday night's 6-1 loss to Atlanta. The shortstop has seen it all during his time here, from sparse crowds at the Vet to sellouts at Citizens Bank Park.

Rollins hoped one bad season wouldn't break Phillies sellout streak

◐ Veteran shortstop understands fans' frustration, urges them to recall all the good times ◐ Manuel confident new streak will come with more wins

It was bound to happen at some point. That point was Monday night.

A crowd of 41,665 attended the Braves-Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park, snapping the franchise's sellout streak of 257 regular-season games — a streak dating all the way back to July 6, 2009.

"You kind of knew it was going to happen," shortstop Jimmy Rollins said an hour after Monday's 6-1 loss. "You would hope that it wouldn't. You would hope that one bad season wouldn't break it up, especially after the five winning seasons that we had and division championships.

"But that's the way it goes. People aren't going to spend money and come to the game if they don't feel they're getting their money's worth. And this year we've been a little short."

Rollins remembers playing in front of sparse crowds at Veterans Stadium. So being part of this streak is something he'll always cherish.

"It was a heck of a run," Rollins said. "We had fun. I know I go out every night and the first thing I do is look up and see how many seats are empty at the beginning of the game. And by the third inning, I see how many of those seats are filled. It was something we came to expect, really. That's a lot of baseball games. There's been a lot of winning in that time. Hopefully, they enjoyed it as much as we did."

The Phillies' 257 straight sellouts is the longest in the National League and the third-longest in Major League Baseball. The Red Sox lead the way with 772 consecutive sellouts, while the Indians sold out 455 straight from 1995-01.

"I've been to about five or 10 games a season since the World Series season of 2008, and it's been awesome," said Joanne Pinsner, of South Jersey, who added that she's been a Phillies fan since the late 1970s. "I've seen ups and downs through the years. During this sellout streak, the electricity was incredible. It's been a tough year, but I'm confident we'll be back and doing great again."

Manager Charlie Manuel has a career record of 695-548 since taking over in 2005. He has guided the club to five straight NL East titles, two trips to the World Series and one world title.

"It's kind of up to us to make sure we get our team together and get better, and get our crowd back," he said. "I'm sure we can."

ANDY JASNER
sports@metro.us

It's alumni weekend at the ballpark

The Phillies will welcome some old friends back to town this weekend.

Mike Lieberthal will be inducted into the Phillies' Wall of Fame before Friday's game (ceremony set for 6:50 p.m.). He'll be joined by legends Steve Carlton, Mike Schmidt and Greg Luzinski.

The team is also hosting a Tailgate Tent Party on Saturday night, when fans can pay $125 per person to party (5:30-7 p.m.) with former Phillies Darren Daulton and Pat Burrell. METRO

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Penn St. changes uniforms, moves on from Paterno era

Penn State is changing its football uniforms in an effort to further itself from the Joe Paterno era.

Players' names are being added to the traditional blue-and-white, no-name look Paterno's squads made famous. The uniforms will also feature blue ribbons to show support for child-abuse victims. In the wake of the Jerry Sandusky scandal, the university wants to re-invent itself. The changes are set to debut Sept. 1, in the Nittany Lions' opener.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ PSU's old uniforms

"We want our fans to know and recognize these young men," said new coach Bill O'Brien. "They have stuck together during tough times, and I commend them for the leadership they have shown."

Meanwhile, a group of former Penn State players, including NFL player Michael Robinson, have appealed the heavy sanctions doled out by the NCAA. Penn State was forced to vacate wins from 1998-2011, while serving a four-year bowl ban. METRO

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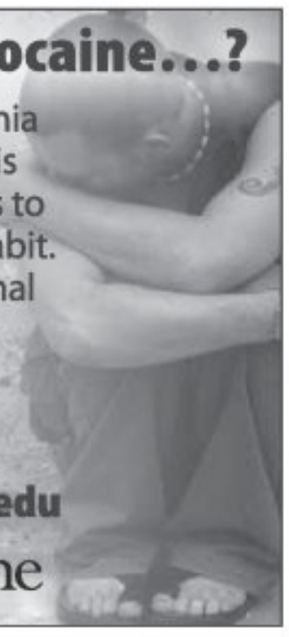

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at home with metro

TAKE A STAY-CATION

Need a getaway but can't afford an island retreat right now? (Hey, that fall coat is calling!) Blanche Garcia, interior designer and star of the Travel Channel's 'Hotel Impossible,' has a simple alternative to booking a flight: Turn your apartment into a summer stay-cation Here's how

Start with the bed for the best R&R

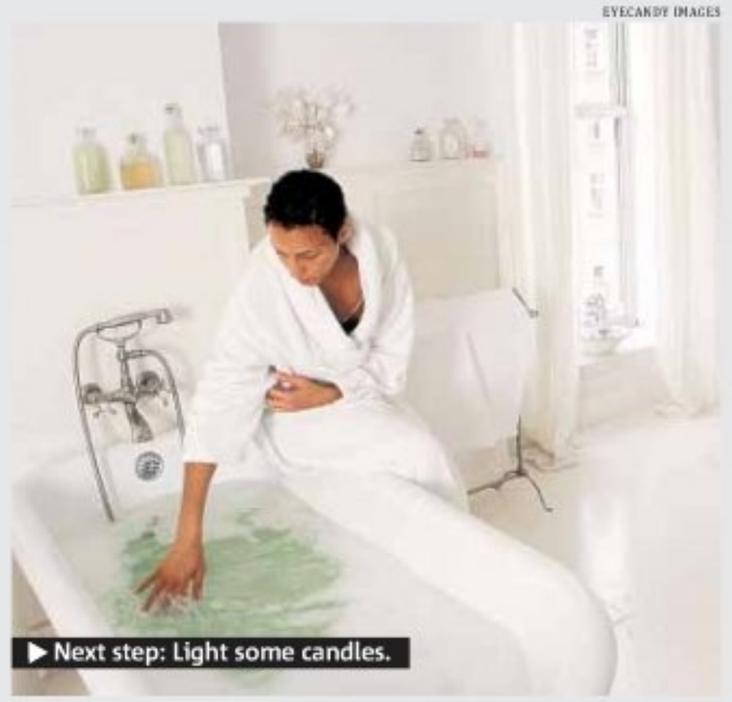
"The bed is really important when you want to feel like you're in a hotel," says Garcia. The first step: Upgrade to hotel-quality sheets. "All the sheets should have at least 500-800 thread count," she says. Also, stay in a neutral color palette.

"Whites on whites, creams on creams. You'll never go to a really nice resort and they have all different pattern sheets. White and crisp is always best." Another key trick, she says, is to layer your bed. "Make sure you have a duvet insert or a coverlet on top of the sheets."

POLKA DOT

▶ "Make sure that pillows are nice and plush," says Garcia. "These are all things that make you feel very comfortable."

EYECANDY IMAGES



▶ Next step: Light some candles.

JOANIE FERGUSON
letters@metro.us

Edit your stressful junk

If you want to feel like you're somewhere far from your reality, eliminate your usual clutter, says Garcia. "When you're at home, you don't notice all the papers piling up because you're used to seeing them every day, but if you just ran in and put those things away, got really colorful pillows and popped in your iPod, you would feel like you're not in your space."

Don't skip the spa appointment

"In the bathroom, candles are really important for ambiance," stresses Garcia. She also suggests stocking up on accoutrements for a bubble bath. "Normally people take a shower because everyone is in a rush, but when you're going to lounge, you want to make sure that you're taking bubble baths. They make you feel way more relaxed."

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CREATAS

Remember scents

Add drawer sheets within the drawers of the dresser with relaxing scents like lavender, says Garcia. "Or if you want to feel beach-y, use an ocean scent."

Feng shui away

Your outdoor space can use a makeover, too. "Use mini fountains; they're pretty and bring in the water element," says Garcia. For the fire element, she likes a fire pit.

Bring your dream vacation to your home

"If you're going to stay home for the week but you really want to be in, say, Italy or Jamaica, plan it so for that week, everything that you're cooking is from that country," says Garcia. "If you want to be in Italy, make sure to play all Italian music."

Welcome!

Garcia's tips for setting up a guest room:

1. Keep a basket in the room with notepaper, sewing kit, magazines, incidentals, eye masks, slippers and earplugs for their comfort.
2. Keep layers of sheets, a duvet and a throw so they have options.
3. Place an inexpensive dimmer on the bedside lamp so your guests can adjust as they see fit.

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